

NHANES III LINKED MORTALITY FILE

Detailed Notes for Selected Variables

ELIGSTAT – Eligibility Status for Mortality Follow-Up

All NHANES III participants are included on the linked mortality files, but only NHANES III participants at least 17 years of age at time of interview were eligible to be submitted to the NDI. Those 16 years or younger at the time of the NHANES III interview were ineligible for matching with NDI records. A second group of NHANES III participants were defined as ineligible for mortality linkage because of insufficient identifying data to create a NDI submission record ([See Tabular Data, Tables 1 and 3](#)).

MORTSTAT – Final Mortality Status

The MORSTAT variable is NCHS's final determination of vital status and should be used as an outcome variable and to calculate survival. Each NHANES III participant who is eligible for mortality follow-up is assigned a vital status code (0 = assumed alive; 1 = assumed deceased). The ascertainment of vital status for NHANES III participants with matches to NDI records is based upon the NCHS recommended criteria determined by a calibration study.

MORTSRCE—Final Mortality Source

To assist in reviewing potential NDI matches, NCHS may order and review selected death certificates. The NDI only uses nine matching criteria to determine a potential match. Death certificate review allows for the comparison of additional information provided on the death certificate, such as industry and occupation, with data collected from NHANES III survey records. Comparing the death certificate and survey data assists NCHS in determining if a potential NDI match record correctly matches the NCHS survey participant.

Two sources of information are used to determine if a NHANES III survey participant is deceased:

- 1.) NDI probabilistic match
- 2.) Death certificate received and matched

Any combination of these sources can be used to identify NHANES III decedents.

1 NDI match only:

- a probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
- no death certificate was reviewed

2 NDI and death certificate:

- a probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
- a death certificate was reviewed and matched

3 Death certificate only:

- no probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
- a death certificate was reviewed and matched

Blank assumed alive